

**TEAMWORKS
POSTERS**



**FOOD DRIVE
TO BENEFIT ST.
ANNE'S FOOD PANTRY**

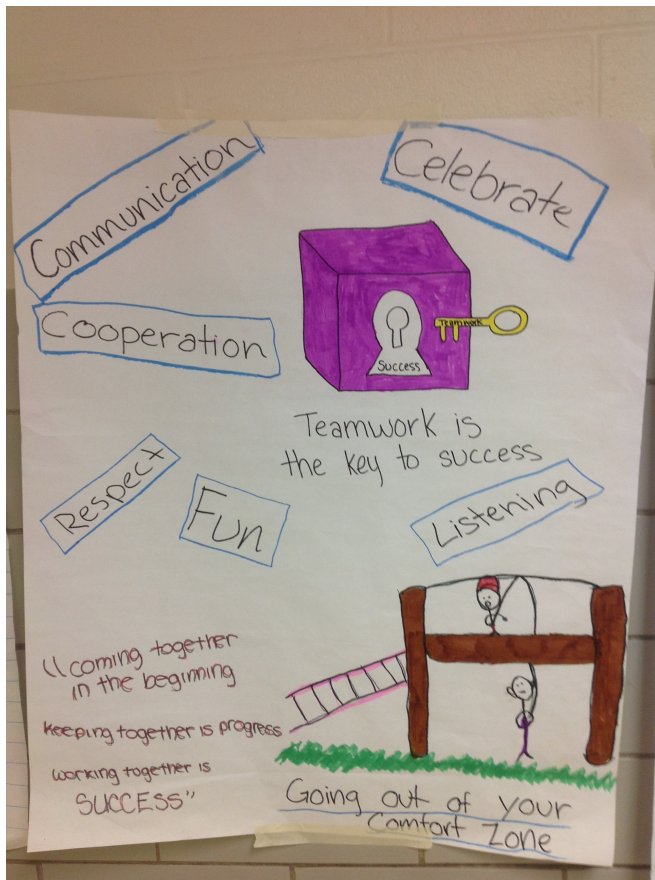


**HALLOWEEN DOOR
DECORATING
CONTEST**



**8 WHITE BOWLING
TRIP**

8 WHITE NEWS



It's hard to believe but we are already two months into the school year! Time sure is flying by. But nothing quite gets us ready to deal with the dark and cold "get ups" each morning. (Thank goodness for Dunkin Donuts) Nonetheless, your children continue to come here each day with a positive attitude, respectful behavior, and a real thirst for knowledge.

Following our trip to TeamWorks, students worked in groups to create posters that represented the skills they practiced

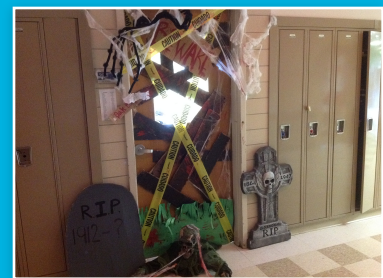
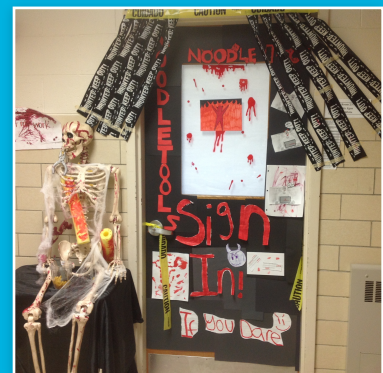
World History

We kicked off October with our Rise of the Roman Empire test. This was a test our students prepared diligently for and a vast majority of students excelled at. I was very proud of the effort every student gave and their desire to succeed. As I stated in last month's newsletter, "What goes up, must come down!" And that we did, as we explored the split and eventual fall of the Western Roman Empire.

We then studied an overview of the Roman Legacies of Art, Architecture & Engineering, Language & Writing, and Philosophy, Law, & Citizenship. Students wrote a five paragraph essay on which Roman Legacy they believe had the greatest impact on our society. We spent a week using a "pillar" graphic organizer (the same type of g.o. we use in ELA & Science for writing assignments) and researching facts to support our claims. I allotted each class period for an entire week for students to research, write and revise their essay prior to submission. We'll be closing out the month with a test on the Split & Fall of Rome and the Roman Legacies. As always students received a study guide that we will review as well as playing a game of History Jeopardy to review for the test on 10/30.

Finally, as you may have heard from your child, I have at last attained a goal I have strived towards for many years now! It may seem silly to some, but thanks to a couple of families that were throwing some away, I've finally been able to collect enough "comfy chairs" for every desk in my classroom-28 in all! For years now I've collected broken teacher chairs or picked up chairs at yard sales. With a little repair and renovation, I've been able to replace the normal student chairs with comfortable chairs to sit on in my class. As some others have wondered, "All they must want to do is spin and rock in them! It must drive you nuts!" On the contrary, I've found my students are comfortable and are able to enjoy the class even more. They are aware that I'll gladly allow them to get an "old hard chair" if they abuse the privilege, but I haven't had to do that yet, nor do I see it happening. Dr. Sheryl Reinisch, director of Early Childhood Education Programs at Concordia University – Portland has stated that studies indicate that high-quality & comfortable classroom environments "help children feel safe, secure, and valued. As a result, self-esteem increases and students are motivated to engage in the learning process."(education.cu-portland.edu) And that is exactly what I've been honored to witness in my classes.

Door Decorating Contest!

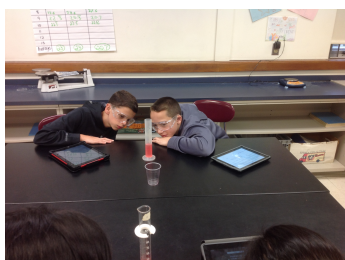
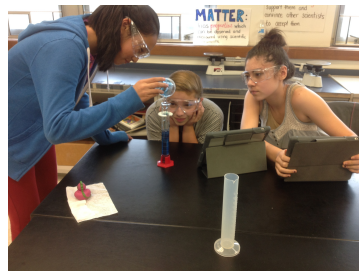


Check out the Spooky Doors of 8 White! Sponsored by Student Voice, we create intense Halloween spirit within the halls of Oak by decorating our doors. This year our team won two of the categories! Ms. Crosby's door won for Scariest 8th Grade Door and Mr. Ponticelli's door won for Most Creative 8th Grade Door. Not only was it a lot of fun to have the entire team involved in planning, creating and decorating the doors and hallway; but it was also great to earn a few spirit points – one step closer to winning the coveted Color Cup!

Science

Students also used inquiry to discover that the relationship between the mass and weight of an object is gravity. The mass of an object stays the same no matter where it is in the universe, while the weight will change as a result of a change in gravitational pull (like on another planet, or on the International Space Station).

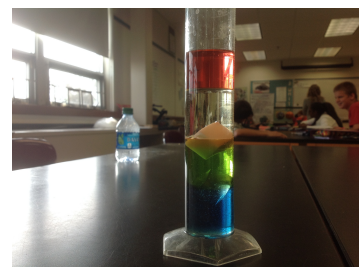
Our Properties of Matter unit is well underway this month. Students have discovered, through scientific inquiry, that the relationship between the mass and volume of an object is density. Density is the property that causes objects to sink or float in a particular liquid. Students learned that all materials have different densities, but things made of the same material will always have the same density, regardless of how much substance is present.



Students made a claim to answer the question: "What causes objects to sink or float in water?" They used data and observations from a lab investigation to provide evidence that would support their claim. This is a process that we'll continue working on throughout the school year.

Finally, we are continuing to study other properties of matter such as solubility, boiling point, flammability, and reactivity. Students are currently working on another lab experience where they will use the properties of known substances in order to identify an unknown white powder and an unknown clear liquid.

Up next...atoms and molecules!



ELA with Mr. Shaw

We are in the middle of our first unit where we are exploring how cultural experiences influence who we are. We first looked at three different articles that looked at the loss of Women's Rights in Afghanistan after the rise of the Taliban. We read about Heroic Women that stood up to the Taliban and we related those experiences to how we could be heroic in our own lives. This led to many great conversations. One was based on the following quote by Malala, "If you remain in silence, you will continue to live in terrorism. Or you speak up. In both ways, the consequences are hard." Students interpreted it to their own lives, many echoed, "It is not always easy to do the right thing, to help others, or to stick up for those that can not speak for themselves, but it is the right thing to do."

We are continuing to read *The Breadwinner* which gives readers the first hand account of fictional Parvana who lived through the Taliban occupation and explore how family, education, and courage are the keys to life.

Math with Mr. Shaw

Equations, Equations, Equations!!!!

Your child may be having dreams where equal signs attack them from all corners or seven eight nine, but they are doing great with equations!

"Say It With Symbols" began by exploring equivalent expressions using physical representations to help students visualize its meaning. Next, we began segueing equations and how we could represent different scenarios like tiles around the pool or the profit, income, or expenses for a business.

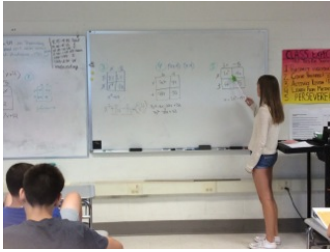
We are taking a very systematic approach to math and introducing one step at all time, with the goal at the end being that students will need to take all the steps they have learned and combine them. At the beginning of the unit, we used IXL.com as it allowed us to concentrate on that one skill at a time. As we continue through the unit and look at the big picture, we will be using more real-world activities rather than isolated algorithm problems.

We are also working on mathematical self-confidence and vocabulary. We have a lot of conversations around if an answer is correct and how do we prove it rather than just moving on to the next problem. We use specific vocabulary to help explain our actions with the end goal being that it improves both our ability and self-confidence.

Math with Ms. Madan

We have finished our first unit! Students worked hard on understanding algebraic expressions and solving equations. In the non-honors classes, students were given a chance to become "Equation Champs" by getting 100% on equation quick quizzes. They got a certificate and hung them up on the wall. It was great seeing your children so excited about math!





Throughout the unit, students wrote and presented their work. We talked about common mistakes and analyzed each other's work. Students are becoming more and more comfortable coming up to the board and working out problems.

To prepare for the unit test, the students got to play Math Jeopardy! They got to work in a group to solve problems and quickly show their answer.

Our next unit will be about linear equations and rate of change. Students will be learning how to represent rates of change in graphs, tables and equations.

ELA with Mrs. Egan

October in English/Language Arts brings us to Afghanistan. We are reading the novel *Under the Persimmon Tree* by Suzanne Fischer Staples. As we study the novel, we look at each section through a different lens. Your children are working in Literature Groups with three or four students. In our Literature Groups, each person is assigned a specific role, which changes with every section we read. We

have been focusing on the use of symbolism, conflicts and character development. We also have an opportunity to write poetry from the perspective of one of the main characters. Many of the poems written by your children are quite powerful. In addition to the rotating roles we complete group quizzes. For the quizzes, students use their graphic organizers and work together. Another piece of this unit includes Literature Circle Discussions. In the Literature Circle Discussions, 3 or 4 groups are combined

into a large group. Using the graphic organizers for the roles, we have meaningful discussions during which each person shares information and others ask questions. These discussions help us more deeply understand the nuances of the novel.



Also in October, we have begun to further develop our research skills. We have had several lessons with our media specialist, Ms. Bedard. To help us organize our research, we use a web-based platform called Noodle Tools. Noodle Tools is an excellent tool for note taking, creating citations, and collaborating while completing research. Your children were introduced to Noodle Tools last year, and this year we will regularly use the tool when we are completing both large and small research assignments. Our culminating research assignment for this unit will be a website which your children will create.

8 White Bowling Trip

Recently, a group of 8 White students organized an after school team bowling trip to AMF Bowling Alley. We had a fabulous time and hope to plan many more team building events this year. Below are a few photos from the trip.



Upcoming Events at Oak

Magazine Drive! This is our school's biggest fundraiser of the year. It kicks off on Wednesday, November 4th and ends on November 16th.

Student Voice Food Drive to benefit the St. Anne's Food Pantry kicks off on Monday, November 16 and runs through November 24.